The Central American species of *Diplonevra* Lioy (Diptera: Phoridae)

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Abstract

The species of *Diplonevra* Lioy of Central America are reviewed, with particular attention to the structure at the base of the posterior face of the hind femur. Six species are recognized, five of which are new to science: *D. ereba*, *D. goliatha*, *D. hypermeka*, *D. truncatiseta*, and *D. gnoma*. The sole described species, *D. setigera* (Malloch), is found to be a senior synonym of the North American *D. gaudialis* (Cockerell) and the Brazilian *D. impressa* (Borgmeier), both **new synonyms**.

Key words: Diptera, Phoridae, new species, Neotropical, taxonomy, key

Introduction

The genus *Diplonevra* Lioy is a worldwide group of 78 currently recognized species. Although the greatest species richness so far recognized is in the Palearctic Region, much of the Neotropical fauna is still to be assessed. These flies are prominent in the phorid catches from middle elevation sites throughout Central and South America, but so far only 15 Neotropical species have been recognized, and none have been described since the latest review of the fauna (Borgmeier, 1969).

The way of life of most species of *Diplonevra* is unknown. This is especially true of Neotropical species, for which records are exceedingly scarce. For the warm tropical parts of this region (i.e. excluding extreme southern South America), the only existing information is that of Disney (1995), who recorded *D. setigera* (Malloch) (as *D. impressa* (Borgmeier)) from light traps operated in caves in Trinidad. This species is found widely outside of caves, however, and is clearly not obligatorily associated with this environment. Elsewhere in the world (summarized by Disney, 1994), *Diplonevra* larvae are scavengers,